



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

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Investigations and Security Operations

Member since November 2016

Management and Leadership



Environmental Policy Statement

Zicherheit LLC is committed to reducing its impact on the environment. Based on this commitment, we will strive to improve our environmental performance over time and to initiate additional projects and activities that will further reduce our impacts on the environment. Our commitment to the environment extends to our customers, our staff, and the community in which we operate.

We are committed to:

- *Complying with all applicable environmental regulations;*
- *Preventing pollution whenever possible;*
- *Training all our staff on our environmental program and empower them to contribute and participate;*
- *Communicating our environmental commitment and efforts to our customers, staff, and our community;*
- *Creating and maintaining an Environmental Team; and*
- *Continually improving over time by striving to measure our environmental impacts and by setting goals to reduce these impacts each year.*



Environmental Team

Being a small business, many of our employees wear multiple hats as is the case of our environmental team. Our management staff and site supervisors are

part of the team. Through this team, we encourage our employees to identify any means available to enable us to comply with our Environmental Policy and fulfill our commitment to reduce our impact on the environment.

While still in the beginning stages, our environmental team has developed an Environmental Policy with help from the State of Maryland, and is currently working on developing a comprehensive assessment of our business practices and making recommendations to more easily comply with our Environmental Policy and fulfill our commitment to reduce our impact on the environment. Outlined below are practices already approved and are either implemented or in the process of being implemented.

Our Team will be represented by all supervisors and managers to show Zicherheit's strong support of its environmental policy and its moral and ethical obligation to meeting our environmental goals and protecting the environment. In addition, we have asked for volunteers from each of our sites to serve on the team since each site is different, has its own features and specific impact on the environment.

Currently, our Team meets monthly to discuss a variety of topics concerning our business, one of which is a progress report on the implementation of our environmental policy. In addition, we recognize those employees who have embraced our environmental policy and worked significantly on helping us reach our goals.



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

In an effort to support our environmental policy and our commitment to reduce our impact on the environment, we strongly support the purchase of goods that are environmentally friendly. An example of this is our purchase of recycled and/or eco-conscious paper. We typically buy 30% Recycled, FSC Certified paper (The Forest Stewardship Council is an international non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization established in 1993 to promote responsible management of the world's forests).

In addition, where practical, we purchase Energy Star-rated equipment and energy efficient lightbulbs.

Waste



Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

This has been a multi-stage approach for us.

- *We are proud supporters of the thinkbeforeprinting.org campaign and as such place their banner on every email.*
- *We encourage the use of both sides of paper whenever possible.*
- *Rather than print materials, we try to use an electronic draft for review.*
- *In another effort to reduce the amount of paper we use, we have invested in software tracking for our security officers, thus eliminating the need to manually complete a report each shift in addition to each incident report needing to be completed. We can view their activity almost simultaneously as they are inputting their notes. Our customers enjoy the more professional reports and it saves time. This action alone has significantly reduced the amount of paper used.*



Recycling

We recycle numerous items which are not just limited to what our company uses. We encourage our employees to either recycle at home or bring items to work to recycle:

- *Our company saves all empty printer and toner cartridges and gives them to a student to take to school, where not only are they recycled but the school receives money for them. One example of a company supporting this venture can be found at <http://www.fundingfactory.com/>*
- *All CFL lightbulbs are returned to Home Depot or Lowes where they can be properly disposed of.*
- *Acceptable electronics (computers, monitors, cell phones, etc.) are taken to an electronics store (such as Best Buy, etc.) where they will recycle them. In the event they won't take a particular item, we work with the county in the proper disposal of the items. Check out your county landfill for rules.*
- *In addition, we separate and recycle glass, plastics, cans, paper, and cardboard.*



Composting

As a home-based business, we decided that another way of supporting our environmental policy and our commitment to reduce our impact on the environment was to introduce composting to our agenda. We have ordered two composting bins. While they haven't yet arrived, we anticipate immediate implementation, using the compost in the spring on our newly developed "Maryland" garden where we will establish a garden dedicated to plants native to Maryland.

Energy



Energy Efficiency

We have taken the following steps to reduce our energy usage:

- *installed a more efficient, programmable thermostat which is cycled to a low-energy use state after office hours*
- *cool our office by opening windows rather than using the air conditioning*
- *use natural light over artificial lighting whenever possible*
- *installed motion sensor light switches in almost all rooms, where practical. If movement is not detected within a specified period of time, the lights will turn off.*
- *replaced lightbulbs with more energy efficient CFLs.*

Transportation



Fleet Vehicles

While we try to utilize e-docs and email as much as possible, when the physical delivery of documents is mandated, we have our delivery person make local deliveries utilizing a company owned scooter. He enjoys the ride, we save in fuel costs and insurance and the impact on the environment is minimal compared to a regular vehicle.

Water



Water Conservation

As a home-based business, we are installing rain barrels at every rain spout. Since this was just implemented this year, we have not yet realized our savings, however, per the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, "rain barrels can save a homeowner 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months, and therefore electricity as well." Regardless of the savings to us, we know the positive impact this will have on the environment and more specifically, the Chesapeake Bay



Stormwater Management and Site Design

As stated above, we are installing rain barrels for every rain spout which will reduce stormwater runoff from our property.



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

